

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. In a system including a first storage system at a first site associated with a first host and a second storage system at a second site associated with a second host, wherein the first storage system and the second storage system are coupled each other by a remote copy link so that the second storage system receives a copied data from the first storage system via the remote copy link, a method for checking a status of the first site, comprising:
  - monitoring I/O activity from the first host to the first storage system;
  - determining status of the first host based on the I/O activity on the first host;
  - and
  - sending the status of the first host from the first storage system to the second storage system via the remote copy link.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying a first volume in the first storage system, wherein I/O activity from the first host to the first volume is monitored.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the status of the first host is determined based on I/O activity rate from the first host to the first storage system.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the status of the first host is determined as dead if the I/O activity rate is less than a first threshold.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending an alert signal from the second storage system to the second host based on the status sent from the first storage system.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - monitoring I/O activity from the second host to the second storage system;
  - determining status of the second host based on the I/O activity on the second host; and

sending the status of the second host from the second storage system to the first storage system via the remote copy link.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of identifying a second volume in the second storage system, wherein I/O activity from the second host to the second volume is monitored.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the status of the second host is determined based on I/O activity rate from the second host to the second storage system.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the status of the first host is determined as dead if the I/O activity rate is less than a threshold.
10. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sending an alert signal from the first storage system to the first host based on the status sent from the second storage system.
11. A data processing system comprising:
  - a first storage system at a first site associated with a first host; and
  - a second storage system at a second site associated with a second host,wherein the first storage system and the second storage system are coupled each other by a remote copy link so that the second storage system receives a copied data from the first storage system via the remote copy link,
  - wherein the first storage system is configured to:
    - monitor I/O requests received from the first host;
    - determine status of the first host based on I/O activity from the first host, and
    - send the status of the first host to the second storage system via the remote copy link.
12. The processing system of claim 11, wherein the first storage system monitors I/O requests from the first host to an identified volume thereof.

13. The processing system of claim 11, wherein the status of the first host is determined based on I/O activity rate from the first host to the first storage system.
14. The processing system of claim 13, wherein the status of the first host is determined as dead if the I/O activity rate is less than a first threshold.
15. The processing system of claim 11, wherein the second storage system is configured to send an alert signal to the second host based on the status sent from the first storage system.
16. The processing system of claim 11, further comprising a third storage system coupled with the first storage system via a first remote copy link,  
wherein the first storage system is configured to send the status of the first host to the third storage system via the first remote copy link.